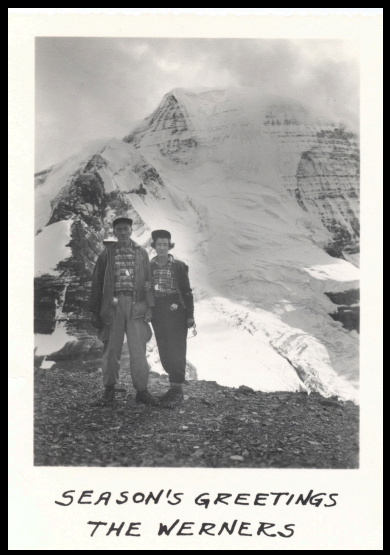
DPS EARLY DAYS

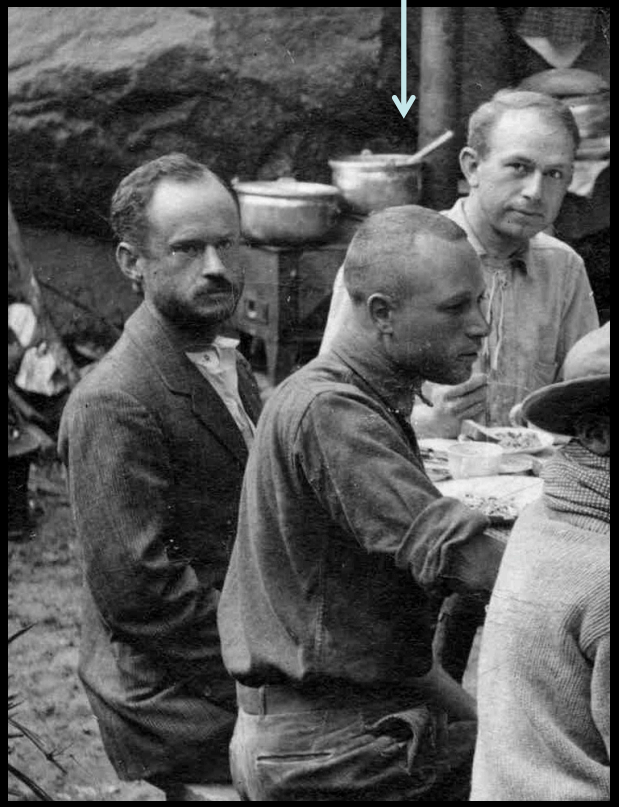
& ADVENTURES ON EL PICACHO DEL DIABLO



Chester Versteeg

Father of the Desert Peaks Section

Chester Versteeg



Working on Muir Lodge - 1913

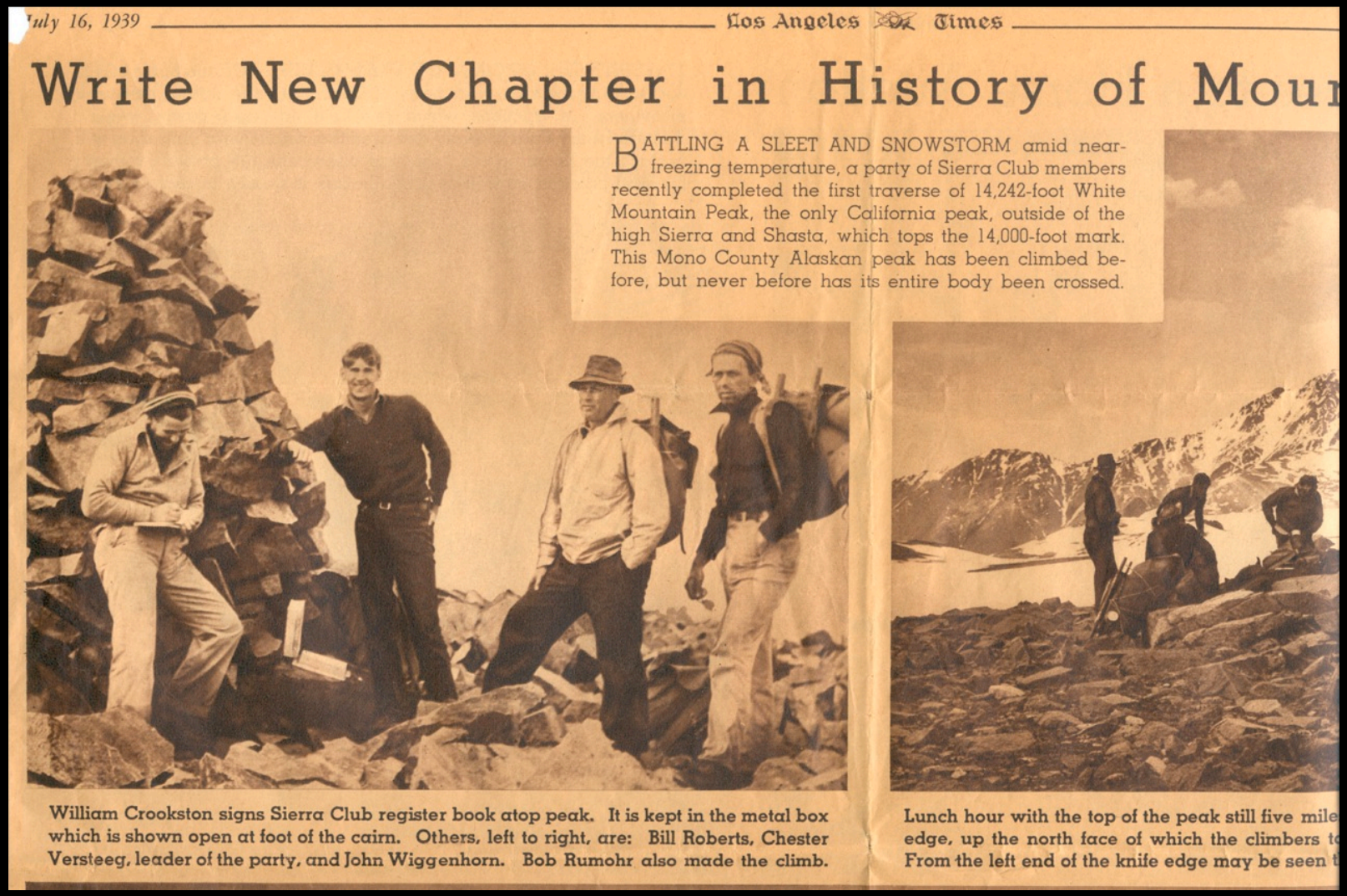
Chester Versteeg

Working on Muir Lodge - 1913

Chester Versteeg

Practice With Rock Climbing Section, Stoney Point, late 1930s

Chester Versteeg



July 16, 1939 — Los Angeles Times

Write New Chapter in History of Mou

BATTLING A SLEET AND SNOWSTORM amid near-freezing temperature, a party of Sierra Club members recently completed the first traverse of 14,242-foot White Mountain Peak, the only California peak, outside of the high Sierra and Shasta, which tops the 14,000-foot mark. This Mono County Alaskan peak has been climbed before, but never before has its entire body been crossed.

William Crookston signs Sierra Club register book atop peak. It is kept in the metal box which is shown open at foot of the cairn. Others, left to right, are: Bill Roberts, Chester Versteeg, leader of the party, and John Wiggenhorn. Bob Rumohr also made the climb.

Lunch hour with the top of the peak still five mile edge, up the north face of which the climbers t From the left end of the knife edge may be seen t

Early Desert Peak Climbs – White Mountain in 1939

Chester Versteeg

AT END OF CLIMB—Here are, left to right, Leland Chase, Bill Roberts, Bob Rumohr and Chester Versteeg, members of Sierra Club, at summit of Telescope Peak.

Times 5/22/39

Sierra Club Climbers Conquer Telescope Peak in Snow to Deposit Record Book at Summit

Early Desert Peak Climbs – Telescope Peak in 1939

Chester Versteeg

24 Part I—SUNDAY, OCT. 7, 1951 Los Angeles Times

MOUNTAIN DEDICATION—Ralph Drummond, left, and Chester Versteeg officiate at dedication of "Trojan Peak," which towers 13,000 feet in Sierra Nevadas. Another alumnus who climbed peak to participate in dedication, Noble Trenham, took picture of Drummond holding SC record box and of Versteeg preparing to sign new register.

Trojan Peak Dedicated in Honor of University

Three SC Alumni Place Box Containing History, Oath and Motto of School Atop High Mountain

Fifty-five years ago the names University Peak and Mt. Stanford were given to two crags which tower over 13,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada. The names were in honor of the University of California and Stanford University.

Since early in the century, the fact that the two institutions were so honored while their alma mater, the University of Southern California, could not lay claim to so much as a football peak has galled two ardent SC alumni.

Suggestion to Board

In 1936 Chester Versteeg and Ralph A. Chase picked out a hitherto unnamed 13,968-foot mountain about five airline miles north of Mt. Whitney, highest point in continental United States.

They sent their suggested name to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names — Southern California Peak. Back from the board's executive secretary, Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, came the suggestion that, since the proposed name might indicate the area rather than the school, why not call it Trojan Peak.

The change was approved and SC has just received notification that the name is now official.

Lifelong Hobby

Three SC alumni promptly set out to dedicate the peak and place atop it a metal box containing a brief history of the university and copies of the Trojan oath and motto. They are Versteeg, SC '16; Police Lt. Ralph Drummond, SC '48, and Noble Trenham.

Trojan Peak stands just east of the Sierra Crest between Mts. Bernard and Tyndall, both more than 14,000 feet in elevation. From its summit are visible Mt. Stanford, 13,983 feet, some seven miles to the northwest, and University Peak, 13,588 feet, eight miles north.

Versteeg, a Los Angeles insurance broker, feels that the naming of Trojan Peak crowns his lifelong hobby with success. For 39 years he and his family have been exploring the High Sierra, during which he has climbed nearly 300 peaks. His hobby has been the naming of topographical features in the rugged mountain chain. He has suggested more than 250 names for lakes, mountains and meadows.

Famous for Naming Geographical Features in Sierra Nevada

Chester Versteeg

Mt. Chester Versteeg Dedication Climb, Sept 5, 1965 – SPS led by JWR

DPS Pioneers – Waucoba Mtn, July 1941

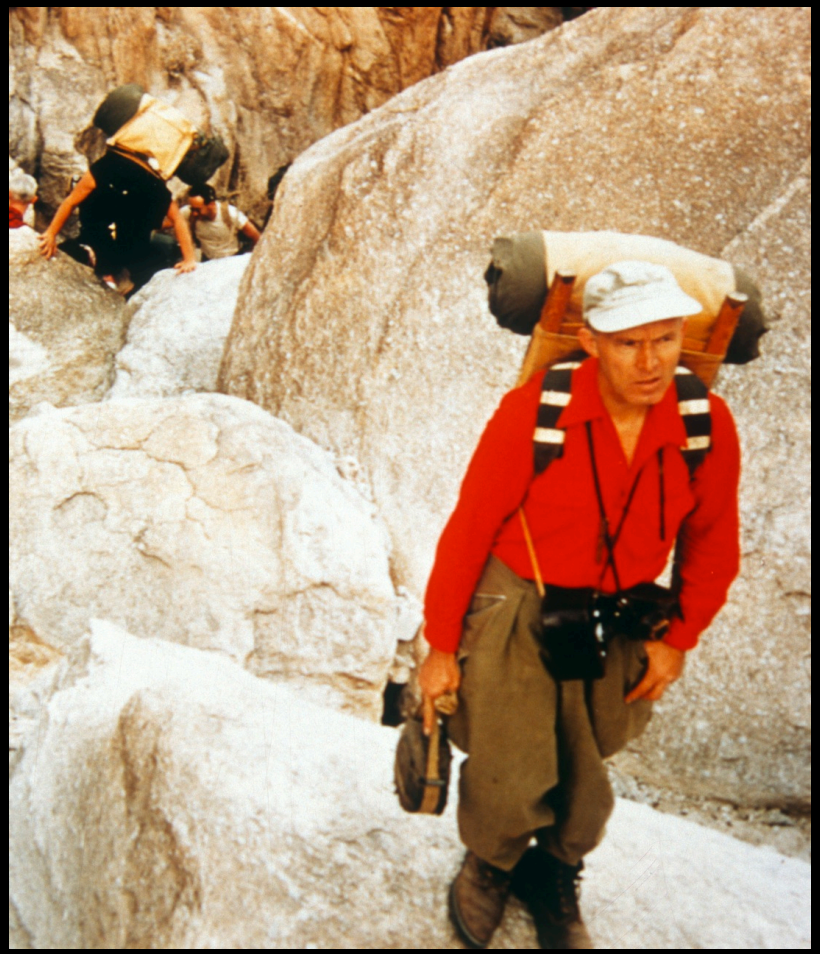
L to R: Parker Severson, Fred Johnson, Martin Britt, Harry Paley, Rhoda Goertz, Freda Walbrecht, Chester Versteeg, Jim Tow, and the Unknown Climber

DPS Pioneers

Freda Walbrecht

DPS Pioneers

Lloyd Balsam (l) and Parker Severson on Mt. Sill, 1948



Parker Severson in Coxcomb Mts, 1956

DPS Pioneers

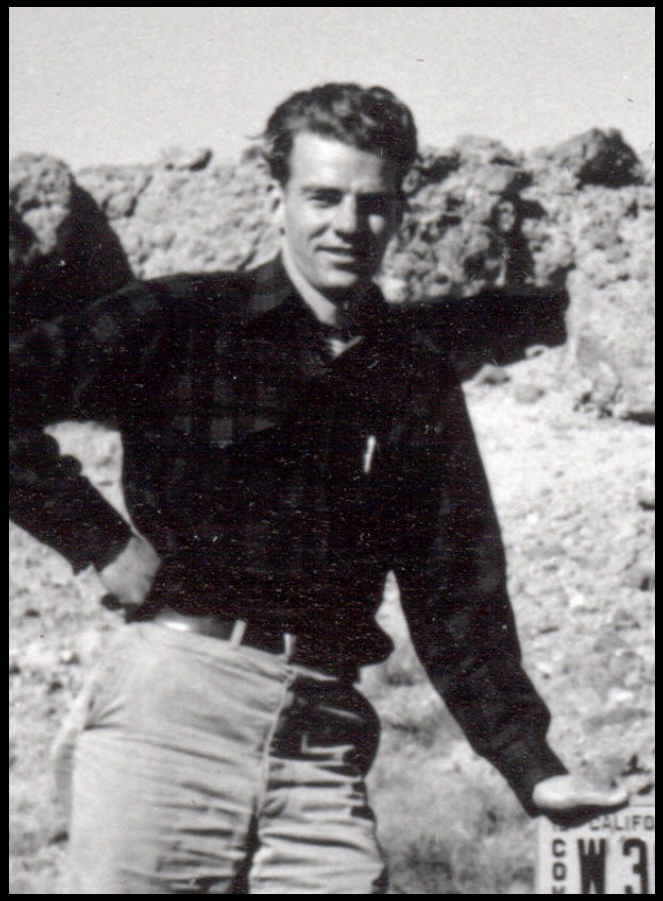
Niles & Louise Werner with Bundle, early 1950s

DPS Pioneers

“Building Cairn on Eagle Crags,” [sic] early 1950s

Three Early DPS Chairs, l to r: Lloyd Balsam, Bill Henderson, Parker Severson

DPS Pioneers



Willard Dean on Avawatz

Bill Henderson on Rabbit Peak

DPS Pioneers

White Mountain, Labor Day Weekend, 1946
Harry Paley Listed as Leader

DPS Pioneers

DPS Pioneers

Unidentified Desert Peak, c. 1948

DPS Pioneers

Montgomery/Boundary in 1953

DPS Pioneers

Montgomery/Boundary in 1953

DPS Pioneers

Lone Pine Peak, 8/14/49

Lone Pine Peak, 8/14/49

DPS Pioneers

ON MOUNT KEYNOT 5/30/53

Front: B.Schmeltzer, M.Jones, L.Ogg, L.Werner.
2nd:J.Fitschen,R.Kent,V.Sisson,C.Jarobin,A.Widmer,E.Burnop.
3rd:F.Sanborn, J.Nienhuis, D.Kenyon, J.Robinson, J.Johnson,
J.Wedburg, K.Rich.

John Robinson's First DPS Outing

Early DPS Outings

Bill Henderson's Ultimate SUV – Brunhilde – Got Them Closer to Avawatz Peak

DEVIL PEAK – EL PICACHO DEL DIABLO

10,157 Feet

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – EARLY ASCENTS

Don McLain – First Ascent in 1911

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – EARLY ACENTS

Bestor Robinson

Norman Clyde

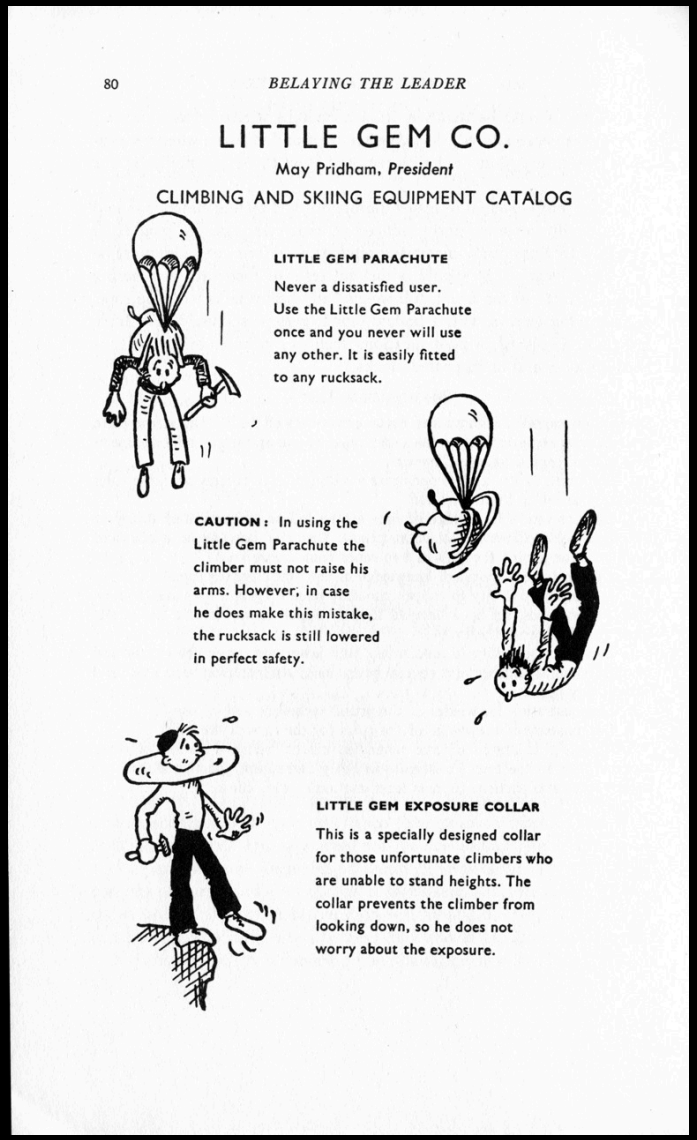
Glen Dawson

Dick Jones

Walter Brem

Clyde/Dawson Party – Second Ascent, 1932 Via Pinnacle Ridge

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – EARLY ACENTS



80 *BELAYING THE LEADER*

LITTLE GEM CO.

May Pridham, *President*

CLIMBING AND SKIING EQUIPMENT CATALOG

LITTLE GEM PARACHUTE

Never a dissatisfied user. Use the Little Gem Parachute once and you never will use any other. It is easily fitted to any rucksack.

CAUTION: In using the Little Gem Parachute the climber must not raise his arms. However, in case he does make this mistake, the rucksack is still lowered in perfect safety.

LITTLE GEM EXPOSURE COLLAR

This is a specially designed collar for those unfortunate climbers who are unable to stand heights. The collar prevents the climber from looking down, so he does not worry about the exposure.

THIRD RECORDED ASCENT - 1935

goes to party composed of

May Pridham

Julia Mortimer

Fred Stitt

R.C. Kendell

First three were well-known members of Sierra Club's Southern California Rock Climbing Section. Pridham famous for her cartoons in Mugelnoos.

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – EARLY ACENTS

Eleanor Pierson Henry Stege

R.S. “Sam” Fink Louise Werner

Werner/Fink Party – 1951

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

The Infamous Waterfall Barrier of Canon del Diablo

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

All’s Well to the Top

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

Henry Heusinkveld

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

Fred Bode (age 74) on Summit With John Robinson, Asst Ldr Jay Riley at rt.

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

Descending “Wall Street” into Canyon del Diablo

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

Site Where Ed Krause Broke Leg

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

Bernie Petitjean (left foreground) Splinting Ed Krause

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

DPS Outing of 1971

Getting Ed Krause Down Canyon del Diablo – Henry Heusinkveld at times carried him piggyback

PICACHO DEL DIABLO – The “Modern Era”

CEC Outing, 1974

L to R: Dick Miller, John Robinson, Bud Bernhard, John Tenero